

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 70

Introduced by Assembly Member Salas

May 13, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 70—Relative to Portuguese National Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 70, as introduced, Salas. Portuguese National Heritage Month. This bill would recognize the month of June 2015 as Portuguese National Heritage Month.
Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In September of 1542, Portuguese explorer Juan
2 Rodrigues Cabrillo (João Rodrigues Cabrillo) sailed a ship into
3 San Diego Bay and became the first European to explore the land
4 now known as California. Cabrillo explored the California coast,
5 and is credited with numerous coastal discoveries; and
6 WHEREAS, The first Portuguese settlers came to California
7 from the Azores Islands in the early 19th century. The largest wave
8 of Azorean immigrants moved to California just before and after
9 the turn of the 20th century. Each wave contributed substantially
10 to setting up agricultural operations, especially dairy, vegetable,
11 and fruit farms; and
12 WHEREAS, Throughout most of the 20th century, as many as
13 one-half of all Portuguese Californians owned or operated a dairy
14 farm, worked on a dairy farm, or worked in a dairy-related industry.
15 Applying the Portuguese belief in hard work and thriftiness, along
16 with additional labor from family members, a Portuguese settler

1 could earn enough to reinvest in his business, and buy more land
2 and cattle; and

3 WHEREAS, Historically, California has been a popular
4 destination for immigrants from the Azores Islands, creating strong
5 cultural ties between the two regions; currently there are over
6 330,000 persons of Portuguese heritage living in California,
7 approximately 90 percent of whom have either come directly from
8 the Azores Islands or are of Azorean parentage; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1994, the University of California, Berkeley,
10 established The Portuguese Studies Program. Included among the
11 many goals of the program is the goal “to spotlight the crucial and
12 complex but often overlooked experience and contributions of the
13 Portuguese American community”; and

14 WHEREAS, Among the great Portuguese Americans who have
15 contributed significantly to this country are: composer John Philip
16 Sousa, best known for composing “Stars and Stripes Forever”;
17 poet Emma Lazarus, best known for her sonnet about the Statue
18 of Liberty, “The New Colossus”; architect William L. Pereira, best
19 known for designing the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco;
20 and singer and actress Carmen Miranda. Many Portuguese
21 Americans have also served with distinction in local, state, and
22 federal office, and have served proudly in this country’s military;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Portuguese Americans have made valuable and
25 substantial contributions to every facet of California life including
26 the entertainment industry, the most notable of whom are Mary
27 Astor, Tom Hanks, Joe Perry, and James Franco; and

28 WHEREAS, Portuguese Americans continue to thrive in
29 agricultural communities of the San Joaquin Valley, including
30 Hanford and Lemoore in Kings County and Shafter, Wasco, and
31 Bakersfield in Kern County; they have contributed greatly to
32 making market milk the leading agricultural product by value in
33 both Kings and Kern Counties; and

34 WHEREAS, The Portuguese Heritage Society of California
35 designated the second Saturday of June as a day to celebrate
36 Portuguese culture through music, dance, art, cooking, parades,
37 and other festivities; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby declares the month

- 1 of June 2015 as Portuguese National Heritage Month; and be it
- 2 further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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